SPECIAL FEATURE NO. 3-1260 MARCH 3, 1978
JOHN PAXSON/CHICAGO

OBIT FOR THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS
(VOICED VERSION AND INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)
(EDS PLSE NOTE: THIS PIECE SHOULD BE USED BY 3/4/78)

ANNCR: A TRADITION MORE THAN A CENTURY OLD DIED (THIS WEEKEND, TODAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 4) AS THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS NEWSPAPER CEASED PUBLICATION. HERE IS ----------WITH A REPORT FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN CHICAGO, JOHN PAXSON.

NARR: IT WAS BACK IN 1875 THAT THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS FIRST HIT THE STREETS, THE FIRST NEWSPAPER IN WHAT WAS THEN CALLED THE AMERICAN WEST TO SELL FOR JUST ONE CENT. IT FACED HARSH COMPETITION IN THOSE WILD EARLY DAYS OF CHICAGO JOURNALISM--THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE HAD BEEN PUBLISHING SINCE 1847 AND ENJOYED WIDE POPULARITY. STILL, THE DAILY NEWS FLOURISHED AND BEGAN DEVELOPING A TRADITION OF GOOD WRITING AND PRIZE-WINNING REPORTING.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- STUART

"OH, THIS HAS BEEN A MAJOR INSTITUTION IN THIS COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD. IN ITS ONE HUNDRED AND TWO YEARS IT'S HAD SOME OF THE MOST PRESTIGOUS AND ILLUSTRIOUS JOURNALISTS KNOWN TO THE PROFESSION."

NARR: THAT IS JAMES STUART, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FIELD ENTERPRISES WHICH OWNS THE NEWSPAPER AND WHICH RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE DAILY NEWS WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS ON MARCH FOURTH.

FOR DECADES THE DAILY NEWS HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR ITS WRITERS, THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS, AND FOR AN UNEQUALED STAFF OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WHO MANAGED TO BRING TO THE PAPER'S MIDWESTERN READERS THE ADVENTURE, ROMANCE AND INTRIGUE OF FOREIGN LANDS.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- STUART

"PEOPLE LIKE BEN HECHT AND CARL SANDBURG, EUGENE FIELD -- THE CHILDREN'S POET -- AND PETER LISAGOR WHO WAS HEAD OF OUR WASHINGTON BUREAU AND WHO RECENTLY DIED, (AND) ALL THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. IT WAS THE FINEST FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT CREW IN THE COUNTRY AND THE FIRST, I THINK. IN MORE RECENT TIMES MIKE ROYKO WHO IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND CONTROVERSIAL COLUMNISTS IN THE COUNTRY AND WHO I'M HAPPY TO SAY IS GOING TO BE COMING OVER TO OUR SUN TIMES ALONG WITH MOST OF THE OTHER TALENTED WRITERS ON THAT PAPER. BUT THOSE ARE JUST A FEW -- THERE'VE BEEN MANY MORE."

NARR: SINCE 1974 WHEN THE CHICAGO TODAY NEWSPAPER FOLDED -- THE DAILY NEWS HAD BEEN CHICAGO'S ONLY AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER. AND THEREIN LAY THE ROOT OF ITS PROBLEMS. IN RECENT TIMES THE DAILY NEWS HAS BEEN LOSING ELEVEN MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. MANAGEMENT AND EDITORIAL STAFFS WERE CHANGED; EVEN THE TYPE STYLE AND LAYOUT OF THE PAPER WERE ALTERED. BUT ALL RESCUE ATTEMPTS FAILED. AGAIN, MISTER STUART.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- STUART

"THE PROBLEMS THAT LED TO THIS DECISION HAVE BEEN IN PROCESS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. MOST PEOPLE THINK THAT THIS IS A RECENT PROBLEM. THE DAILY NEWS CIRCULATION HAS BEEN DECLINING STEADILY SINCE PRIOR TO 1957 WHICH IS A LONG TIME. AND THE REASONS FOR IT ARE SEVERAL AND DIFFICULT TO PRECISELY SET FORTH. AS YOU DOUBTLESS KNOW THERE IS A WHOLE LITANY OF PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AFTERNOON NEWS FIELD IN MAJOR URBAN AREAS AND HOW THESE IMPACT IN DIFFERENT MARKETS I'M SURE VARIES AND NO ONE KNOWS PRECISELY HOW THEY HAVE HERE. THE EASIEST TO SEE IS DISTRIBUTION LOGISTICS. IT'S OBVIOUSLY EASIER TO GET A PAPER OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHEN EVERYONE'S ASLEEP AND NO ONE IS ON THE ROAD THAN IT IS IN THE RUSH HOUR. THAT'S A CLEAR DEMONSTRABLE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN MORNING DELIVERY AND AFTERNOON."

NARR: MISTER STUART POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FAR MORE SUBTLE PRESSURES LEVELED AGAINST TODAY'S AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS. LIFESTYLES ARE CHANGING AND THERE

NARR: (CONT) IS FAR LESS TIME IN THE EVENINGS FOR SOMEONE TO SIT QUIETLY READING A NEWSPAPER. TODAY THERE ARE RESTAURANTS, MOVIES, THEATERS, SPORTING EVENTS AND, OF COURSE TELEVISION -- ALL VYING FOR THE READER'S TIME. THOSE WERE THE THINGS THAT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE SPELLED THE END OF THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- STUART

"IN A LESS PRECISE WAY AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT WAY, THE GENERAL SHIFT IN LIFESTYLES IN THIS COUNTRY AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE BUT CERTAINLY IN AMERICA, WHEREBY THERE IS LESS LEISURE TIME IN THE EVENING AND MUCH MUCH MORE COMPETITION FOR THE USE OF THAT TIME THAN IN OLDER, SIMPLER DAYS."

NARR: JAMES STUART OF THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS.

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